



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

Record of Commission Action
Commissioners Voting by Ballot*

Commissioners Voting: Chairman Hal Stratton
 Commissioner Thomas H. Moore
 Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall

ITEM:

Memorandum of Understanding with Customs

DECISION:

The Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Exchange of Information between the U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Customs Service, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Commissioner Gall submitted the attached statement to accompany her vote.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd A. Stevenson", written over a horizontal line.

Todd A. Stevenson
Secretary

* Ballot vote due October 10, 2002



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**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MARY SHEILA GALL
TO ACCOMPANY BALLOT APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING WITH UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE**

October 3, 2002

I voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission) and the U.S. Customs Service (Customs). The MOU will assist the Commission in identifying potentially unsafe imported products and halting their importation at the docks. The American consumer is safer because the Commission and Customs are now better able to work together. I have been a consistent advocate of this MOU and my office has worked with both Customs and within the Commission to achieve it.

The ballot referring the MOU to the Commissioners contains one statement that requires some elaboration. The ballot notes that a ballot vote on the MOU was sent to the Commission on May 1, 2002 but was not approved by the Commission. The Commission lost its quorum on May 2 and was unable to vote on the MOU until after the confirmation of Chairman Stratton. The five-month delay in approving the MOU, therefore, resulted not from any deficiency in its substance, but rather from the fact that the Commission lacked the legal authority to approve it for much of that time.